

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of cutting sheet members, comprising steps of:

a) stacking a plurality of sheet members having air impermeability;
b) fixing the sheet members by vacuum suction;
c) locally heating a seam allowance of pattern pieces, or a region outside the seam allowance, near a cutting line by frictional heat between the sheet members and a knife or a punch of a cutting head, ~~and by welding to weld~~ the sheet members together vertically to fix upper and lower sheet members ~~by said local heating~~; and
d) cutting the sheet members along a predetermined cutting line along the pattern pieces.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of cutting sheet members according to claim 10, wherein the local heating step includes locally heating along a region slightly outside the cutting line at a plurality of positions for each piece.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of cutting sheet members according to claim 10, wherein the local heating step includes locally heating in the seam allowance inside the cutting line at a plurality of positions for each piece.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of cutting sheet members, comprising steps of:

- a) stacking a plurality of sheet members having air impermeability;
- b) fixing the sheet members by vacuum suction;
- c) cutting the sheet members along a predetermined cutting line along pattern pieces having a plurality of uncut portions on the cutting line; and
- d) further cutting only the uncut portions.